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TO

Amend the Law for the Registration of Voters in Ireland.

A.D. 1878.

WHEREAS it frequently happens that persons entitled to acquire the franchise in counties and boroughs in Ireland are hindered in their acquisition of such right by the laws at present regulating the registration of voters in Ireland:

5 Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. The lists of parliamentary voters and registers of parliamentary electors in parliamentary counties and boroughs shall, so far as they relate to persons qualified in respect of the ownership or occupation of property (including persons qualified in respect of lodgings), be arranged in the same order in which the qualifying premises appear in the rate book for the townland or street in 15 which those premises are situate, or as nearly thereto as will cause those lists, registers, and rolls to record the qualifying premises in successive order in the townland, street, or other place in which they are situate. And in addition to the places prescribed in the several Acts in that behalf for the publication or posting of lists 20 of voters and claimants to vote, they shall be posted on the doors of all places of worship in the polling district.

2. When a person is entitled to be on the register of voters for any premises of sufficient ratesable value, and desires to be entered on the same, he may claim to be so entered by sending notice of his 25 claim to the clerk of the peace in counties or town clerk in boroughs on or before the *twentieth of July*.

The clerks of peace and crown in counties, and town clerks in 30 boroughs, shall, on or before the *last day of July*, make out a list of persons so claiming.

30 The lists so made out shall be published and otherwise dealt with in the same manner as the lists provided for in the last clause, and

[Bill 6.]

A.D. 1873. shall, for the purposes of the Parliamentary Electors Acts, be deemed to be lists of voters, and not lists of claimants.

Notices of objection. — 3. A notice of objection to a person on a list of voters for a county or borough shall not be valid unless it specifies the ground of objection, and the objector shall at the hearing be only entitled to rely upon such specific objection or objections.

Revision of voters. — 4. A revising barrister shall, with respect to the list of voters which he is appointed to revise, perform the duties and have the powers following:

- (1.) He shall insert in the proper list of voters the name of every 10 person who has duly claimed to have his name inserted therein, unless he is objected to, and the party objecting proves his objection by himself or other witness upon oath:
- (2.) He shall erase from the list of voters the name of every one 15 who is proved to be dead:
- (3.) He shall insert on the list of voters the name of the person who is proved to be the actual occupier for the prescribed time of the premises for which he claims to vote, without calling on him to prove his title.

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Evidence as to qualification. — 5. Where any person whose name is on any list of voters, the revising barrister, whether the person is objected to or not, and if objected to does or does not appear before him, shall, before requiring it to be proved that the person so appearing on such list or so objected to is entitled to have his name inserted in the list of voters, 25 or expunging his name, require *prima facie* proof to be given to his satisfaction of the ground of objection against him, and for that purpose may examine and allow the objector to examine a witness upon oath touching the truth of the alleged ground of objection.

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If such *prima facie* proof is not given to his satisfaction he shall retain the name of the person objected to in the list of voters.

If *prima facie* proof is given to his satisfaction, evidence may then be given in favour of the person objected to, whether he attends personally or not, and then the revising barrister shall decide 35 whether the name is to be retained or not on such list as aforesaid.

Voters (Ireland).

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III.

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of Voters in Ireland.

(Proposed and drafted by
Mr. Supper, Mr. Fenton Morris, Mr. French,
and Mr. Fay.)

Ordered by the House of Commons, to be Printed,
17 January 1873.

[Bill 1] Under 1 m.